

REMARKS

Initially, applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for discussing this case with applicants' representative on June 20, 2005. During the discussion, applicants' representative agreed we would review the "LOST VIKINGS" reference. The language "only a single step" was also discussed.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31, and 32 will have been amended for consideration by the Examiner.

In view of the following remarks, applicants respectfully request an indication of the allowability of all of the claims pending in the present application.

Dragon Quest IV, as described by GONZALES, requires a multiple step process for displaying a list of characters that can be swapped. On the contrary, the present invention is directed to more simplified character switching. The switching character process involves a single step operation to display a list of standby characters and then selection of a character from the displayed list. GONZALES requires choosing tactics in the command window and then selecting switch, and thus does not disclose or suggest the claimed single step operation for displaying a list of candidate characters, as recited by independent claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, and 31.

With respect to the claim 32 rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over GONZALES in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,106,399 to BAKER et al., applicants respectfully assert that GONZALES, as noted above, does not disclose a single step operation for displaying a list of standby characters as recited by independent claim 32.

Similarly, BAKER et al. do not disclose a single step operation by the player for displaying a list of standby characters. Moreover, there is no suggestion or disclosure in GONZALES or BAKER et al., separately or in any proper combination that render obvious the features of the claimed invention.

With regard to dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, and 23-28, applicants assert that they are allowable on their own merit and at least because they depend from one of independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 22, which applicants submit have been shown to be allowable.

Furthermore, the applied references of TANIBUCHI et al. and YOSHIKAWA et al. do not disclose a single step operation by the player to display a list of standby characters as recited by the independent claims.

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in any proper combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

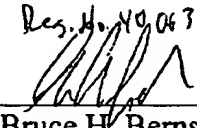
Additionally, it is noted that LOST VIKINGS does not teach or suggest displaying a list of characters in response to a single step operation.

The Examiner urges that the claims (prior to amendment) did not distinguish a multiple step operation because of the transition "comprising." It is noted, however, that claims 1, 8, 29, and 30, do not recite the transition "comprising," and therefore do not include a multi step operation. However, to be absolutely clear those claims have been amended. It is submitted that the claim amendments do not add new issues for the examiner's consideration and accordingly, entry of the present amendment is deemed to be proper.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Takatsugu NAKAZAWA et al.

Reg. No. 29,027



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

June 21, 2005
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191